00913

1972/01/26

MEMORANDUM

1. President Nixon's speech is now locked for 8:30 p. m., Washington time (9:30 a. m., January 26, Saigon time). President Nixon will make all the changes in his speech and proposal suggested by President Thieu except for the following:

a) Speech. In paragraph beginning "President Thieu has informed me ...." for purposes of style, the President will say "The Chairman of the Senate, as caretaker head of the government, will assume administrative responsibilities, although the election would be the sole responsibility of the independent election body".

b) In the new language of President Nixon's speech, which I submitted to President Thieu this afternoon, the third paragraph before the end read "There are several other proposals in our new peace plan; for example, as we offered privately on June 26 of last year, we remain prepared to undertake a major reconstruction program in South Viet-Nam to help all those people to recover from the ravages of a generation of war. President Thieu was to change "all those people" to "its people".

The paragraph, however, should have read "a major reconstruction program throughout Indochina". Thus we want to keep the phrase "all those people".

2. Revised Proposal:

Point 3. We will make suggested changes.

Point 5. We feel that we cannot change point 5 since we believe if we make this change on top of all the others we believe we will start running risk of backsliding from our private proposals. We think the word "parties" is sufficiently vague so that it does not prejudge who would be doing the settling. The first sentence of Point 5 would, therefore read "The problems existing among the Indochinese countries will be settled by the Indochinese parties on the basis of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's affairs."

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 6/22/99

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